Progress of Ganga Action Plan

*295. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made so far in implementation of the Ganga Action Plan, phase-wise, indicating the cost involved therein, so far;

(b) whether, despite implementation of this plan, Ganga waters continue to be polluted with industrial and other wastes; if so, how far;

(c) by when cleansing of Ganga waters is likely to be completed, as per the plan; and

(d) at which stage the action plans for cleansing various other major rivers in the country stand at present?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Under the Ganga Action Plan, Phase-I approved in June' 85, out of 261 sanctioned schemes, 254 schemes have been completed so far at a cost of Rs. 450 crores. The Ganga Action Plan, Phase-ll was approved during the period April, 1993 to October, 1996. The Phase II project cost is Rs. 1328.32 crores

and expenditure is Rs. 300 crores. Under this plan, out of 184 schemes sanctioned so far, 32 schemes have been completed.

(b) Under Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, intervention measures were taken up in 25 class I towns where the total municipal sewage generated in 1985 was 1340 mid per day. Out of this, 873 mld of domestic waste water was targeted for interception, diversion and treatment and till date capacity has been created to treat 728 mld of waste water. The remaining would be tackled with the commissioning of the balance schemes. Under the ongoing Ganga Action Plan, Phase-ll about 1780 mld of waste water is targeted for interception, diversion and treatment. With regard to industrial wastes, 68 grossly polluting industries were originally identified for immediate control during Ganga Action Plan Phase I out of which 45 are operating their effluent treatment plants satisfactorily and 23 have been closed down. Subsequently, some more industries numbering 119 were identified as grossly polluting in nature and their status of compliance reviewed by the Central Pollution Control Board. Of these 36 units are now complying with the prescribed standards while 4 units have been closed down. Follow up action is being pursued against the remaining 79 industrial units.

(c) The Ganga Action Plan, Phase-ll is likely to be completed by the year 2001.

(d) In addition to Ganga Action Plan, Phase I & II, pollution abatement works have been taken up along 18 other major rivers covering 10 States under National River Conservation Plan approved at a cost of Rs. 772 crores in July 1995. An expenditure of Rs. 59 crores has been incurred. Out of 150 schemes sanctioned so far, 18 schemes have been completed.

Contamination of Yamuna by adulterated mustard oil

*296 SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the spread of Dropsy epidemic in Delhi and areas around it, the stockists and traders of mustard oil disposed of the oil into the Yamuna river, contaminating the river water; and

(b) what hygenic and environment friendly means were adopted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Delhi Jal Board are regularly monitoring the quality of water in river Yamuna. Following the recent dropsy epidemic in Delhi, no

abnormal change in river water quality was observed by these agencies.

(b) As a precautionary measure, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi was asked to take steps to prevent the discharge of adulterated mustard oil into sewer lines/Yamuna river. As an alternative they were advised to promote the use of adulterated oil for such purposes as lighting, soap manufacturing etc.

Production and Import of Camphor

*297. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity, actual production and import of Camphor during the last five years, year-wise and Statewise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the production of Camphor is declining while imports are increasing steeply; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that heavy imports under OGL and higher tax burden of Central Government excise duty of 18% and State sales tax ranging between 7% to 15% have adversely affected Camphor industry; and

(d) if so, the details of action plan to restore, and promote domestic Camphor industry against manipulations and unfair competition from China?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Camphor is manufactured in the organised sector by four Units in the country. The details of installed capacity and production achieved by these Units during the last five years, year-wise and state-wise, are given below:

State	Installed Capacity .	Production (MTs)				
		1993-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98
Uttar Pradesh Jammu	4500	2541	4061	3102	3088	3166
& Kashmir	600		839	872	500	450
Maharashtra Andhra	2500				922	960
Pradesh	1000					1191
TOTAL:	8600	2541	4900	3974	4510	5767

Import data of Camphor as per DGCIS publications for the last five years is as under:—

1992-93	147.56
1993-94	949.92
1994-95	244.02
1995-96	839.43
1996-97	211.4*

(b) No, Sir. The production of indigenous Camphor shows an increasing trend since 1995-96. Import of Camphor has been fluctuating.

(c) & (d) Excise duty levied on Cam phor is the same as that levied for al! similar chemicals. The sales tax levied differs from State to State. If there is evidence of unfair competition from China, the industry can initiate antidumping duty proceedings.

Losses due to ban on timber trade in North-East

*298. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ban on all the timber based activities in the seven North-Eastern States has caused a loss of about Rs. 1,480 crores to the national exche-